

The

KOREA REVIEW

Published each Month.

HOMER B. HULBERT, Editor.

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VOL. 5.

NO. 8.

Seoul,

Korea.

AUGUST, 1905.

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7.20	10.00	12.30	3.00	5.30	8.30	Chemulpo	8.50	11.12	2.00	4.30	7.00	9.42
7.26	10.06	12.38	3.08	5.38	8.36	Saaliy	8.45	11.08	1.55	4.25	6.55	9.38
7.33	...	12.43	3.13	5.43	...	Sopple	8.38	...	1.48	4.18	6.48	...
7.51	...	1.01	3.31	6.01	...	Poopyong	8.20	...	1.30	4.00	6.30	...
8.07	10.36	1.17	3.47	6.17	9.06	Sosha	8.08	10.39	1.18	3.48	6.18	9.09
8.19	...	1.29	3.59	6.29	...	Oricle	7.51	...	1.03	3.33	6.03	...
8.36	10.57	1.46	4.16	6.46	9.29	Yungtongpo	7.36	10.16	12.49	3.19	5.49	8.46
8.43	...	1.53	4.23	6.53	...	Nódoi	7.27	...	12.42	3.12	5.42	...
8.49	...	1.59	4.29	6.59	...	Yungsan	7.21	...	12.36	3.06	5.36	...
9.01	11.14	2.11	4.41	7.11	9.46	South Gate	7.21	10.00	12.27	2.57	5.27	8.30
9.05	11.17	2.15	4.45	7.15	9.50	Seoul	7.05	9.55	12.20	2.50	5.20	8.25

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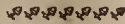
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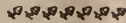


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Homer B. Hulbert, A. M., F. R. G. S. Editor

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THE
KOREA REVIEW.

AUGUST, 1905.

A Protest.

For the past few weeks, those who are interested in seeing satisfactory relations established between the Koreans and the Japanese have been looking for signs that the Tokyo authorities were trying to back up their words with definite action, but the state of affairs here has become rapidly worse instead of better, until at last the Koreans have reached a state little removed from desperation; and those who catch the under-current of feeling among the people are aware that we are dangerously near the point of revolt at the methods adopted by the Japanese.

It is not merely what the Japanese are trying to do in and about the great commercial centers like Seoul, Pyeng-yang, Taiku and Songdo, but the utterly inexplicable methods they adopt in doing it that call for loud and insistent protest. And those who are the most genuine friends of Japan should be the first to make the protest. The facts which we propose to relate here will uphold this indictment. We have been making a careful examination of conditions here and in Pyeng-yang and the statements we append can be relied upon as true. Plenty of witnesses can be brought to substantiate them. It remains, as it has always been, inexplicable on any rational theory how the rights of Koreans should be so completely ignored as they are being at

this moment both in Seoul and Pyeng-yang. This is a rather serious charge to make but the facts bear it out. There can be no excuse which will pass current for the perpetration of the following outrages, for they can be called nothing less.

Let us examine first the state of affairs in the vicinity of Seoul. This city lies about three miles to the north of the Han River, which curves around toward the north holding the city as it were in an elbow. The high wooded hill called Nam San forms a part of the southern boundary of the city and throws its spurs south and east as far as the river bank. Almost the entire area between Seoul and the river, covering thousands of acres of land, has been staked out by the Japanese on the plea of military necessity and the entire population which runs up into the tens of thousands have been notified that they must vacate their houses and fields when notice is given. In this area there are large and flourishing villages of from one hundred to five hundred houses. The people have their long-established occupations and local business connections. Their livelihood depends in large measure upon these business connections and upon the local interests. But not a thought is given to this fact. They are told that they must vacate at some time in the near future. When they demand pay for their land and houses they are told that the Japanese authorities have paid over, or are to pay over, to Korea some three hundred thousand yen for all this property at Seoul, Pyeng-yang and Wiju and that eventually the people will be paid something for their houses and lands.

Now in the first place we must ask what meaning there is in the term "military necessity." We note that in all this district near Seoul the Japanese marks often follow the conformation of the cultivated land up the little valleys, the stakes being set around the fields and taking no account of the uncultivated spurs. This is a very curious thing. If this is for military necessity one must wonder in what way the seizure of only this cultivated land can benefit the Japanese army. If they

needed the hills for strategic purposes, for the building of fortifications or earthworks, it would be a different matter, but this is quite out of the question here. The Japanese themselves affirm that the Koreans are being driven out because "The Japanese are going to live here." In other words the gigantic confiscation has nothing whatever to do with military necessity and is simply the forcible seizure of Koreans' property for the purpose of letting Japanese settle there. This is proved conclusively by what is seen at Pyeng-yang. Between the modern city wall and the railway station, to the west, there is a distance of two miles, through what is called the *wesung* or "Outside Town," supposed to be the site of the old city of Kija. This was held by Korean farmers and each man held the deed for his land. The Japanese seized the entire tract, over 3,000 acres, excepting a few acres held by Chinese, and said it was for military necessity. Not half the Koreans were paid a cent for their houses or lands. Now we find that this tract is being built up, by ordinary Japanese merchants and artisans, into a city by itself. Is this military necessity? Hardly. It is nothing but an exhibition of superior force for the purpose of acquiring property for nothing. These are plain words but we challenge the Japanese or their defenders to prove them to be untrue. Hundreds of people are simply driven from their houses and lands without a cent of compensation. They have no money to rent or buy another place, nor any money to pay for moving. They are simply bereft of everything, including, in many instances, the means of livelihood. As the writer was passing along the road through the section near Seoul Japanese were busy tearing up crops from fields along the way making ready to build a road (not railroad). Women with children stood by, crying and wringing their hands at sight of the destruction of the crop which alone insures them against starvation next winter. The Japanese said he was doing it according to orders. The writer was besieged by more than fifty men along the way who begged that some way be found to delay, at

least, the carrying out the monstrous sentence. But what way is there? Shall we tell these people to arm themselves and fight for their homes? However great their wrongs no one would feel justified in suggesting such a remedy. If the people should rise *en masse* and petition the government for redress they would be told (and have been told) that the government is forced to it by the Japanese. If the Koreans should make a monster demonstration, of a peaceful kind, petitioning the Japanese to have mercy, they would be dispersed at the bayonet's point. The only way to save the situation is to appeal directly to the highest authorities in Japan and demand as an elemental human right that the people be left in possession of their property or that they be paid a fair market price for it.

The evils of this sweeping confiscation are aggravated by the way in which the Japanese attempt to evade responsibility. Having secured from the Korean government by duress a promise to secure the land, the Japanese, knowing that the government has no money with which to pay for it, go to the people and turn them out of their homes and lands and tell them to look to the Korean government for pay. Having shorn the Korean government of all independent action and assumed control of the finances of the country, the Japanese authorities turn about and tell the people to collect their pay from their own government, as if it were an entirely separate and autonomous affair, and able to find the money. We consider this to be not only wrong but it is cowardly as well. If the Japanese want to seize the land why do they not do so without trying to cover the tracks by claiming that the Korean government is responsible? The Japanese are men on the battle field, let them come out and be men in their dealings with Korea.

In order to pacify the people who are being driven out of their homes the Japanese tell them that Japan is going to turn over to the Korean government some money to be distributed among the sufferers. What

could be more exquisitely ironical than this? The sum named is not one tenth the amount necessary to give the people even the minimum market price for their property and to have this paid through the hands of Korean officials would be such a travesty of justice that we can but marvel that the Japanese should have the face to suggest it.

If there were some immediate and stern military necessity like the near approach of the enemy we can imagine the temporary removal of Koreans from situations of danger or from land needed for fortifications, but when, under the plea of military necessity, enormous stretches of merely residential and agricultural property are suddenly seized, paid for in promises only, the people warned to move out, while as yet there is no enemy within two thousand miles and that enemy in desperate straits,—when, I say, such acts are performed they put the perpetrators morally on the defensive. On the night of the ninth instant as the writer passed through the affected district women and children came pressing about him by the score begging him to find some means to avert their being driven from their homes, without a cent of money wherewith to procure a lodging place. Far into the night young women with babies in their arms were hurrying past in flight to a more distant village. The absolute callousness of the Japanese agents is something appalling. Having been ordered to carry out the “improvements” they come into the villages and put down all protest by beating the people, and no one dares to resist, because this would immediately result in the coming of the gendarmes and the shedding of no one knows how much innocent blood.

Now this language will doubtless sound like exaggeration to those who have not been on the spot and seen things as they are, but what we ask is that the facts be investigated. Is it possible that a people which has won such high encomiums as the Japanese shall allow their fair fame to be brought into the dust by acts which are comparable in quality though not in quantity

with the military confiscations of the Caesars? We do not believe it, and we feel confident that if the high authorities from whom the present policy presumably emanates could see these people being driven from their homes and fields penniless and practically without hope of redress they would be the first to rescind the order. And why should Korea be subjected to such drastic treatment, and the land of her people be thus wrested from them on a mere pretext? Even in a conquered territory modern military ethics would not permit of such confiscations without compensation. How much more grievous then is the wrong when we remember that Korea is the ally of Japan. If the Korean government blocks needed reforms then let the government suffer but what have the common people to do with this and what excuse does it give for driving out people that are entirely innocent of any intention or desire to block reforms, but would rather welcome them?

These people have no one to whom they can appeal against their hard fate. They were informed by the Mayoralty office that their land had all been given to Japan and they must prepare to vacate it. When it came to the sharp pinch a crowd of them went to the Mayor's office and protested against the forcible eviction. They were referred to the Home Office as being the source of the order. They went there and asked to see the Home Minister, and were told that it was an Imperial order. They then became desperate and charged the Minister with having lied to them and having stolen their land. Thereupon the Minister asked the Japanese gendarmes to disperse the crowd adding that killing was none too bad for them. The Japanese charged the crowd and one man had his arm cut to the bone and another had his face cut from forehead to chin. Someone in the back of the crowd threw a stone into the Home office and it seems that the cowardly Minister feared a riot and ordered the attack.

The surprising thing is that the Japanese so poorly gauge the temper of the Korean people. The latter may not be quick to resent their wrongs but if thousands of

them are to be deprived of their homes without payment they will surely make trouble. It comes to a matter of life and death at last, and then the Korean becomes a wild beast in fearlessness. The writer has lived among and has watched this people for something like twenty years and nothing is more certain than that a continuance of the present course of action will lead to trouble for which the Japanese will be directly responsible. Let the Koreans become once thoroughly aroused and they change from the mildest and most inoffensive people into veritable beasts which have no fear of death. If the Koreans are driven to the wall they can inflict such damage upon the vested interests of the Japanese as to render their occupation of Korea profitless.

All this can be averted easily by the adoption of a decent and equitable policy in the peninsula. A very little kindness goes a long way with a Korean, and Japan has it still in her power to conserve her own interests and those of Korea by stopping the wholesale confiscation of land and going to work in a slower and more humane way.

A Visit to Pyeng Yang.

It was just fifteen years since I had made a visit to the northern metropolis and I had heard so much about the wonderful changes that had taken place that I thought it would be interesting to compare the status of things now and then. By the courtesy of the Military authorities in Seoul I secured a pass over the railroad and early one morning presented myself at the Yongsan Station in time to take the morning train. The train consisted of three goods wagons one of which was fitted with a temporary awning of canvas. There was a miscellaneous company of Japanese and Koreans waiting to go and we all were soon comfortably seated and on our way. Some of the most difficult portions of the road are found within the first ten miles. Deep cuts and fillings

alternated with each other until we struck the mud flat about four miles out. The embankment across this was made of mud and the summer rains had reduced it to a plastic state which made it necessary to go very slowly and in places sleepers sank beneath the wheels two or three inches into the mud and the wheels splashed through the water which came above the rails. But the Japanese were in no way daunted by this condition of things, and with gangs of Koreans were busy piling up more mud on either side to reinforce the road bed and keep it from sliding away altogether. After four miles of this we came out upon firmer ground and bowled along at twenty miles an hour until we came to the Imjin River, a huge swollen torrent which threatened to sweep away the wooden bridge. The train could not cross this, so we all had to take our baggage in hand and walk across, an operation that was rendered more interesting by the fact that a great pile of rails had been placed upon the center of the bridge to hold it down. But at last we reached the other side and found another train waiting to take us on. There was a covered car but it had become derailed and we all had to crowd upon two open flat cars without sides. All went well until we reached the historic town of Songdo which seems to have grown wonderfully since I saw it in 1890. From this point it began to rain in torrents and among the hills beyond the town there were times when I feared we would be blown off the car. Everyone was wet to the skin and the umbrellas that had not turned inside out served but to concentrate the flood of water at certain points instead of letting it fall upon all indiscriminately. After a time the rain ceased and we sped along wrapped as tightly in our blankets as possible for the wind caused by the motion of the train chilled us to the bone.

We could not but admire the energy and pluck which must have been required in putting this road through to the north. It was of the nature of a temporary road and not at all comparable with the Seoul-Fusan division. The grades are very steep and the cuts are only deep enough to let the trains climb over the passes by dint of

much exertion. In places the engine seemed to be digging its toes into the ground in a desperate attempt to heave us over the saddle of the pass. All this will be remedied later by deeper cuts and by more gradual ascents. And on we went over every obstacle until in the far distance we saw the wall of the city and the Tadong Gate looming up as a landmark. The bridge across the Tadong River is about two miles to the west of the modern city and it has two divisions since it crosses at the point where a long narrow island divides the current of the stream. We crossed slowly and drew up at the station just as the sun set.

Between the station and the modern city lies the *Wesung* or "outside town" which is supposed to be the site of the ancient capital, founded by Kija in 1122 B. C. One of the oldest land-marks is Kija's well, the curb of which is a single circular stone. The *Wesung* is a level plain of great fertility about two miles square and at one side of it is the partially completed new Western Palace which is so anathematized by the people because of its evident uselessness and because of the enormous tax it was upon the people of the province. It stands now a lamentable spectacle of half built walls overrun with weeds and half surrounded by stagnant water.

We were hospitably taken in by American residents outside the city wall and the next day began to look about and ask questions. A walk through the principal streets of the town showed a remarkable transformation as compared with fifteen years ago. Then, the narrow main street was lined with butcher shops from which the sickening fumes of warm fresh hog's blood permeated the atmosphere and made one long for the smells of Seoul. But now this is all done away with. Every property owner along the street has been compelled to cut off six feet or more from the front of his house and devote the space to the public. This caused a howl of indignation from the people, for the government had for decades winked at the encroachment upon the street. But the Japanese were not likely to pay much attention to such protests, and the truth is that the widening of the streets

has more than doubled the value of the property along them so that even the loss of a portion of it has really put money in the owners' pockets. The net result of which is that we cannot find much cause for sympathy with the Koreans who made the complaints. Even now when those very Koreans have reaped enormous benefit from the original sacrifice we hear bitter complaints on all sides because they were not paid for the few feet of land they had to give up.

But if we look about carefully we find that there are hundreds of cases in which the Koreans have been most unjustly treated. There has been one enormous grab on every hand in the city and in its environs. Military necessity is the excuse given in almost every case. Two thousand acres of farming land were included in one monstrous confiscation; but the excuse of military necessity fell to the ground when the land thus seized was divided up among Japanese merchants and others. What military necessity can there be in a miscellaneous collection of civilians who have nothing to do with the military, in most cases? One cannot look into all the cases brought to one's attention but it is beyond question that the action of the Japanese in Pyeng-yang has been hard to bear. The worst excesses of Korea's most corrupt officials never took on the form of such wholesale confiscations as those which have taken place at Pyeng-yang.

A Japanese subject owned a little plot of ground in Pyeng-yang but the opening to it was very narrow. A large tiled house worth 6,000 yen stood in the way. The Japanese offered the owner 120 yen and when it was refused the Korean was seized, dragged away to one of the Japanese compounds and brutally beaten and otherwise illtreated. He at last got away and immediately took opium and killed himself. In China this would have been a serious matter but the Japanese laughed at it and attempted to make the man's widow give up the house. She declared that she would die rather than sell on any terms. This is no faked story but an actual occurrence. The Koreans are helpless because they are too wise to

revolt openly. The time will come however when the Koreans will be driven to it unless better counsels prevail among the Japanese. A few miles from the city a Korean owns a fine hot spring. A Japanese civilian appears, drives his stakes all about the property and says he has taken it because of military necessity, though he has no papers to show.

Not only so but the Japanese have swarmed all over the property of Americans and Englishmen and planted their stakes knowing perfectly well whose the land is. The Japanese Consul when approached about the matter said he knew it was the property of foreigners but he added "You had better just let the stakes remain where they are for the present." When I asked these American gentlemen why they did not pull up the Japanese stakes and throw them in the ditch I learned that if this was done some of the servants or adherents of these foreigners would immediately be seized and beaten within an inch of their lives. And so these foreigners have to submit to the humiliation of having Japanese sign posts all over their property without daring to pull them up. It is indeed a curious condition of things. Whatever the authorities in Tokyo may say, (and we do not doubt their sincerity) the conditions in Korea are utterly a variance with the generous plans made in the capital of Japan. It makes no difference how badly a Korean may be injured it is next to impossible to secure redress.

Over a year ago we said that the Japanese would find it harder to handle Korea properly than to beat the Russians but we had no idea that the promises of reform would play such an inferior part in the program. If any reader thinks this is an exaggeration let him come here and we will promise to show him a few of the particulars of the situation. A widow woman came to me yesterday and asked me to do something for her, as her whole living had been swept away by the Japanese when they built the railway across her land. She had received nothing by way of compensation and it was plain the government could not reimburse her. Now I affirm that the failure of the

Japanese to see that this woman, or any other person whose land was taken, received from the government the payment for her land was a gross injustice. It was morally no better than conniving at theft. A power that will with one hand seize the finances of a neighbor and with the other wave on the people to collect their payment from that government, knowing that it can never be done, leaves much to be desired.

The people of Pyeng-yang deserve our profound sympathy, but no more so than the people in the suburbs of Seoul. Not only have the Japanese not emulated the example of the British in Egypt but they have reversed many of the fundamental rules laid down by Lord Cromer for the handling of that people. No one is more ready to give them applause for what they do that is mutually beneficial both to Korea and Japan. We have consistently maintained an attitude of the utmost optimism as regards the Japanese, and we are enthusiasts in our admiration of her achievements; but surely the time must soon come when Japan will carry out a helpful policy here or else she will lay herself open to the charge of selfish aggression.

The Caves of Kasa.

It was one of those sudden enthusiasms, induced perhaps by the thought of how cool a cave would feel in the midst of the suffocating heat of a summer day in the rainy season. The caves lay among the hills twenty-four miles east of the city of Pyengyang and the imagination unwisely leaped those twenty-four miles and painted pictures only of cool darkness and dripping stalactites; so we were beguiled. We had one bicycle between us and infatuation went so far as to induce us to take it along, thinking we might ride it alternately and so make better time. The mathematics of this proposition were correct, for if one man rides ahead and then, leaving the

wheel beside the road, walks on, and the other man, coming up, repeats the operation, Copernicus himself could not disprove that they would make better time than if they both walked. However that may be the wheel broke down within three miles of the city and proved once more the total depravity of inanimate objects. We left it at a wayside inn and walked on. Be it known that on that very day the thermometer registered 100 in the shade in Pyengyang, but shade was few and far between along that road. From six o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon we strenuously laid the miles behind us until we reached the hills and entered the secluded village of Kasa. We had forded one river whose current was so deep and strong that we had to quarter down stream edging our way across with imminent danger of being swept off our feet and given a ducking.

At the village we were so fortunate as to find a good guide, and having fortified the inner man we began the climb to the mouth of the cave. Two miles up a narrow valley brought us to a point where we left the main path and went straight up the steep side of the hill. The angle was almost if not quite forty-five degrees and the ascent was like that of a ladder. But for all its steepness the hill was covered with a flourishing crop of beans. Earth never could have clung to that hill-side if it had not been held together by scaly stones, of which more than half the surface was composed. Half way up, we found women and children cultivating the beans and learned to our amazement that these fields are plowed by the use of bullocks, even as others.

At last we came to the limit of the field and above us was only the steep rocky crest of the hill. Beneath a low ledge we found the mouth of the cave, six feet wide by four high. The icy wind which blew from it nearly daunted us, as the difficult climb had reduced us to the consistency of a wet rag. It seemed like courting pneumonia to venture in. As we stood there, cooling off, we could look away to the south and east across range

after range of beautiful velvety green hills with bold cliffs cropping out here and there.

The guide warned us that time was flying and that we must enter at once if we wanted to finish by night. So we plunged into the opening, slid down twenty feet of clayey incline and landed on the floor of the first passage. As soon as we entered we found that there was no more wind but only a delightful coolness. The temperature must have been about fifty degrees Fahrenheit. Here we lighted our candles, good, thick foreign ones and not the miserable tallow dips of the Koreans. Shuffling along a dozen rods or so we came to the first large cavern or room. Our candles shed but a feeble light and the dim glimmer of a distant white pillar or stalagmite served only to emphasize the wierdness and mystery of the scene. As we stepped down the incline into this echoing apartment the guide who was in advance suddenly started back and said "It is full of water; we can go no further." We looked down, but the floor of the cave seemed perfectly clear. We could see no water. Another step and we were ankle deep in the icy element which was so still and clear that we had seen the stones at the bottom without being aware of the water. A stone thrown far out fell with a gruesome "chug" into the water and for the moment effectually dampened our ardor. We suspected that there might be some passage around the edge of the water, though, since it was the rainy season, we feared the worst. When the guide said the passage was barred one of us spoke up cheerfully and said "O, we can all swim." The guide gave an involuntary gasp and said "Come this way, there may be a passage around." And, sure enough, there we found it, but it was almost worse than swimming, for it consisted of a three inch ledge around an almost perpendicular wall with nothing to catch hold of, and the only way to preserve the balance was to hug the rock and creep along with great care. The guide preferred to wade around through the water which came only to his waist. When we had passed this barrier things came easier. Turning to the left through a narrow opening we descended a

long passage way, the cross-section of which was about as large as that of an ordinary room. The floor of this passage from end to end resembled miniature rice-fields. Veins of some harder kind of stone which had not dissolved formed ledges or banks just like the banks of rice-fields and each of these fields was filled to the brim with water, about three inches deep. It is curious how these ledges can be all exactly even on top but so it is. After a hundred yards or more of this the passage became lower so that we had to stoop and at one point a huge stalactite and a corresponding stalagmite had united forming a smooth fluted pillar which appeared to be upholding the roof. A little further along the passage widened out again and the center was blocked by a huge spherical stalagmite whose surface was composed of a mass of rough little nodes each exquisitely modelled and somewhat resembling a blackberry in shape. The color of the whole was a dirty white. By rights the whole cave should be snowy white but thousands of Koreans with their thick torches of weed stalks have smoked it so effectually that only here and there does the pure color show. In one side of this queer stalagmite there was a great dent or hole about as big as a bag of rice and on the other side there was a protuberance of the same size. The guide told us this round stone was once a pile of grain; that a thief had come and stolen a bag of it from one side, but, being caught, he had brought it back and thrown it on the other side.

Wandering on we came presently to what looked like a sheer precipice. We could see down into a deep grotto and the sides of the cave expanded into a magnificent cathedral nave. Looking up we could see that the roof was composed of a series of concentric rings ascending in the shape of an inverted funnel till lost in the dimness above. But the most curious thing about it was that far up one side there was a small round opening to the outer air. Through this orifice streamed a single shaft of what looked to us like greenish light. This was because the reddish light of the candles had tired the eye to that portion of the spectrum. This green light falling

across the magnificent spaces of the mighty chamber wrote as with a finger upon the opposite wall. It was more wierd and awesome than any cave could be by torch light or by magnesium. Far off in silent crypts white figures could be dimly seen standing like sentinels of the dead while above them hung rippling draperies of stone, and ever the mournful drip, drip, drip of the water emphasized the otherwise sepulchral stillness of the place. We were not surprised when our guide seated himself on a jutting rock and said "I go no further." We railed upon him as a coward and told him we would protect him from the spirits of the place but he said his feet were sore or something of the kind. Nothing would induce him to go on, but we had no idea of stopping short at this point. We left him sitting there, and began climbing down the face of the wall toward the bottom of the great grotto. He liked this even less than going ahead so he called after us saying that he would go to the mouth of the cave and wait for us there. This seemed rather strange, but there is no use in a foreigner trying to follow a Korean's mental processes. We could not even guess the kind of creeps that were playing up and down his spine, so we sang out goodbye and stumbled on over the pile of debris that littered the floor of the cathedral, for we could see a black passage beyond which lured us on. We had a Korean "boy" with us and he evidently knew something of the cave for he stopped before a round knob, a foot in width, that protruded from the floor and said, "This is the drum," and with that he threw a stone down upon it and it gave forth a deep hollow sound which indicated clearly that right beneath us there were other passages, perhaps closed to human access. Climbing the ascent on the opposite side of the cathedral we had the choice of two passages, one leading straight on and the other climbing steeply to the right and offering interesting possibilities. This one we followed, but for fear of not being able to retrace our steps, we began dropping pieces of paper on the floor or attaching them to the sharp points of rocks where they would be plainly visible. This passage proved to be full of huge boulders which at some remote period

must have fallen from the roof, but they were subsequently covered as with a great sheet by the lime-like deposit left by the dripping water. Up over a great saddle or pass we climbed and then descended into another huge apartment with passages leading off different directions. As we came down the rough boulder-strewn incline we came face to face with a magnificent stalagmite the size of a goliath, studded with rough button-like excrescences or warts. Immediately above him was the corresponding stalactite like a monster icicle almost touching his head and making us think of the sword of Damocles, so delicately was it formed and so tenuous was its seeming hold upon the corrugated ceiling of the cave.

After wandering some distance further during which time we turned through all the points of the compass we came to another great chamber which also had a glimmer of light from the outer world. The Korean declared that it was the same one that we had been in before but this was absurd. It only resembled that one superficially but the Korean kept asserting that he was right and drawing us along until at last he proved that he was right by showing us a peculiar rock that we remembered. This showed how easy it is to lose one's reckoning in such a place. We had had enough for one day and so made our way out by well-known landmarks.

As we emerged from the cave we seemed to plunge into a Turkish bath, so hot and oppressive, by contrast, seemed the outer air. It was a sudden leap from a temperature of fifty to one of eighty five or ninety. Evening was just falling when we reached the village again. We were told that there are two caves, that the one we had not seen had a larger opening but was a smaller cave. This is probably false. We wanted to get back to Pyeng-yang before four o'clock the next morning and so we did not visit the other cave, but reserved the pleasure for another trip.

In ordinary weather one can make the trip with perfect ease on a wheel, and if one were a little strenuous he could leave Pyeng-yang in the morning, go to Kasa, explore both caves and return to Pyeng-yang the same

day. For the most part the road crosses an immense rolling plain like those of western Ohio or Illinois and good time could be made on a wheel. As it was, we walked nearly all night, but the writer found to his chagrin that, in vulgar parlance, he had "bitten off more than he could chew." Forty eight miles of walking and a cave thrown in for good measure was about six miles beyond his limit. At three o'clock in the morning, after one digression in which we got a mile off the road, we turned in and slept. That noisome floor and the wooden pillow felt just as good as the "bed of roses, flushed with Paphian skies," that Bullwer tells us about.

Japanese Finance in Korea.

Ever since the assumption of control in Korea by Japan at the beginning of the present conflict the matter of a national currency for Korea has been rightly assumed to be of great importance.

The situation as then faced was something as follows. In most of the country districts nothing would pass except the old-time copper cash. In the open ports and the large trade centers there was a debased nickel coin in circulation. It had been unloaded upon the people by a government that saw in the minting of money a source of revenue and consequently a coin was produced whose intrinsic value was perhaps two fifths of its face value. It was of a denomination just high enough to make counterfeiting worth while but not high enough to place the necessary initial expense of counterfeiting beyond the reach of any man who could scrape together a hundred yen or so. The result, in a country where police supervision was practically unknown, was that in a very short time the country was flooded with spurious coin much of which was intrinsically as good as the genuine. The Japanese did more than their share of this counterfeiting, for they were able to do it on a larger scale. Of course the nickels

immediately went to a discount and hovered between 200 and 250 per 100 yen. This was where they belonged intrinsically. It was simply an indirect tax on the people. The government had put them out at par and each man who lost by fall of exchange was taxed just that much.

Perhaps the most unfortunate thing about the counterfeiting business was that it became impossible to guess how much nickel coinage there was in circulation in the country. In western lands where banks and clearing houses have their fingers upon the financial pulse of the community it is possible to make a fair estimate of the amount of money in circulation, but there was no way to tell in Korea. All that could be known was that the rapid rise in price of all commodities indicated that the amount was large.

Now the enormous fluctuations in exchange worked ruin to mercantile interests, especially Japanese; and the merchants were insistent in their demands that the currency be put on a firmer basis. As the Koreans import much more than they export, and the greater part of the import business is in the hands of the Japanese it is plain that the difficulties and uncertainties of exchange worked the Japanese more injury than it did the Koreans. The latter were getting along very satisfactorily and the outcry did not come from them to any appreciable degree. It was perfectly natural that the Japanese authorities should consider monetary reform of the greatest importance, for it struck their nationals the hardest.

Let us see, then, what methods were devised for overcoming the difficulty. It was determined to mint a new coin equivalent in value to the Japanese five sen piece and one that could be maintained at par by making it always exchangeable for Japanese money at face value. It must be borne in mind that though the Korean coin had gone to a ruinous discount the reason was not that the intrinsic value of a Korean nickel was so far below that of a Japanese nickel. In fact they were much alike in intrinsic value. And right here we strike the first important question in regard to

the whole matter. In Japan gold is the monetary standard. The nickel coins are only for convenience and no one would claim that they are intrinsically worth what their face proclaims. In a subsidiary coinage this is possible and permissible *provided the government putting out such fiat money can prevent counterfeiting*. We presume that Japan can do this. But when we look at Korea we see a different state of things. The nickel is the sole medium of exchange, (at least in the large centers). There is no gold standard nor silver standard and the nickel is not a merely subsidiary coinage, of which comparatively little is necessary, but the universal medium of exchange of which there must be an enormous amount in order to carry on business. There never was enough to do this, and so in very many transactions involving upwards of ten thousand yen in value, Japanese money was used. Now the enormous out-put, the ignorance of the people as to what was a good coin and what counterfeit, the sad lack of police supervision and the willingness of Japanese to supply Koreans with counterfeiting machinery resulted as anyone might expect. The desire and the resolve to remedy this state of things is a laudable one, but we would ask this question: What is the practical value of putting out another nickel coin that is as easily counterfeited as the old one and whose intrinsic value is but little greater than that of the old one, at a time when there are no more safeguards against counterfeiting than there were before, but on the other hand an added incentive in the fact that these new coins are exchangeable for Japanese money without discount? That is a pretty long sentence but we have no time to shorten it. All that the counterfeiters will have to do will be to see that they use nickel that is up to sample and that their dies are good. They will have no difficulty in putting out a coin that will deceive the very elect. Will the Japanese government be able to redeem these at par for an indefinite period and to an indefinite amount? It is said they have already been counterfeited. That shows what the counterfeiters think about it. We lay no claim to any special knowledge of technical finance, but

we confess to a complete failure to see how the new coinage is to settle the difficulty.

What Korea needs is currency which includes different values of coins so that large transactions will be carried on in higher values of coins, leaving the nickel to be merely subsidiary; but even so it would be necessary to provide safeguards against counterfeiting. When we come right down to the rock-bottom facts we have to admit that until a people has developed a civilization high enough to guard itself against counterfeiters it has no business to dabble in any coinage of high enough intrinsic value to repay the labor of counterfeiting. Such a currency was the old copper cash. It was never counterfeited. The only way for tricksters to get around the law was by tampering with the government mint and its authorities. No one could afford to counterfeit in secret. Too large a plant was necessary and the returns were too slow and small to make it pay. In the present stage of Korean enlightenment and police supervision we consider the whole nickel business to be a financial blunder.

We must next look at the method adopted for the substitution of the new nickels for the old. In order to do this a certain amount of the new money was prepared and public announcement was made that from a certain day the old coinage would be exchanged for the new, the best of it at two to one and the rest at some lower rate. We note in the first place that the monetary reformers had no idea of how much of the old coinage was in circulation and therefore could not tell how much of the new to provide; and secondly that no adequate provision was made for the rush that should have been seen to be inevitable. And what was the result? Chinese and Japanese capitalists immediately began buying in the old coinage, gleaning out the good pieces and unloading the remainder largely in the outlying ports where the people were less on their guard against counterfeits than in Seoul. In this way an enormous amount was hoarded awaiting the glorious day then coins bought at 2.40 to the yen would be redeemed at 2.00. One would have supposed that this eager buying would drive the price of

nickels up, but it did not. Rumors were circulated that while Japanese and Chinese would be treated equitably by the exchange bureau the Koreans would have most of their money thrown out and even some of it confiscated. This frightened the Korean merchants and they hastened to get all the nickels out of their hands by laying in large stocks of goods or by selling nickels to the Chinese and Japanese. In this way the great bulk of the nickels went into hiding in the coffers of the crafty. If, now, the monetary reformers had been able to carry out their advertised program and had shoved over their counters enough of the new coinage to exchange for all the old that was presented, all might have gone well, but they found, to their apparent dismay, that the amount presented for redemption was far too great to exchange, and the program was postponed for a month; then it was postponed again and again. Meanwhile Seoul began to suffer from the extreme scarcity of money. Obligations aggregating millions of dollars could not be met, because of the tightness of the money market: naturally, since all the money was hoarded awaiting redemption. Then the inevitable happened and the old nickels began to rise in value until they approached the mark at which the government had offered to exchange them. The hoarders were quite safe in any event but the public suffered. At the present writing the old nickels are passing hands at 2.00 to the yen and a few capitalists are mulcting the public to the tune of twenty per cent in two months.

But this desperate state of things did not come about without attempts being made to relieve the situation. The Minister of Finance promised the merchants that the government would lend them on good security, through the Korean bank, enough money to tide over the crisis. He seems to have failed to consult the adviser before taking this most laudable step, and so the latter, wounded in his *amour propre*, refused to allow the plan to be carried out. The Korean market might go to smash sooner than a point of etiquette should be overlooked. Then the emperor learning of the dire straits of the mer-

chants proposed to lend them some 700,000 dollars of money belonging to the Household Department and not coming technically under the supervision of the Finance Adviser. When the Emperor sent for the money, which was partly in the Japanese bank and partly in the hands of another Japanese firm, Mr. Megata was informed of it and His Majesty learned to his surprise that he could not get at this money without the consent of Mr. Megata. The latter is adviser to the Finance Department only, but he assumed arbitrary control of the Emperor's private funds and prevented their use even when the purpose was to relieve the desperate straits of the merchants. It was quite natural that interest on money rose to a fabulous percentage and the Japanese money lenders took advantage of the occasion to loan money at five and six per cent a month. It is said they got the capital from the very bank which was holding back the money that the Emperor was to have helped the people with. Such is the report that we heard in Seoul but we cannot vouch for its accuracy.

When at last the pressure became too great and the just claims of the merchants became too insistent, the bank agreed to advance a certain amount of money, but by this time the Korean merchants were so angry at the financial tricks that had been played upon them that they asked pointedly how much solid gold there was behind the notes of the bank, and expressed distrust of the ability of the bank to make good when these notes were thrown back for redemption. This again caused excitement and it looked for a time as if there would be a run on the bank.

Finance is something like war, in that success is the only recommendation of any plan. It is the same in finance as in war that, given a complete knowledge of the demands of the situation and a force adequate to the carrying out of a plan, the end is practically certain. Failure merely demonstrates that the situation was not understood or the plan not carried out properly. Today Korean monetary matters are more mixed and unsatisfactory than they have ever been. The Koreans say

that the man appointed by Japan to carry out monetary reform in Korea is a good accountant but that he is unable to grasp the large facts and unravel a complicated problem. We know nothing about this personally but we do know that the present state of things never should have been permitted. It cannot properly be called a transition stage from one currency to another. It is a panic caused by bad management, ignorance of actual conditions and arbitrary tampering with the inexorable law of supply and demand. If there was doubt as to the amount of nickels that would be offered for redemption why did the authorities not limit the amount that would be received from any single individual? This would have helped to prevent the withdrawal of money from circulation. When it was found that money was getting tight, means should have been adopted at once to relieve the pressure, instead of which the attempts made by the Koreans themselves to solve the question independently of the Japanese were blocked.

The monetary difficulty in Korea can not be solved off-hand. The evil is too deep seated and pervasive to be treated except by a long and patient process. When the people get used to a certain medium of exchange it is very difficult to reconcile them to any other. What plan would be the most effective it is not our province to suggest, but it is very much to be hoped that the Japanese authorities will find some way out of the difficulty without disturbing commercial conditions more than is absolutely necessary.

A Correction.

In a recent issue of this Magazine we had occasion to comment upon some statements made by Dr. Morrison in the *Times*. Among other things we alluded to his statement that the Emperor was surrounded by foreign parasites. We mentioned some of the individual employes of the Korean Government engaged in work in the

palace and showed that to none of these could the offensive term parasite be properly applied. We were attempting to make no exhaustive list of foreigners so engaged, and we very unfortunately omitted the English lady physician who has so long and faithfully served the Imperial family. It is just possible that our failure to mention her, in the list of those to whom Dr. Morrison could not possibly apply the offensive term, may have left the impression that in our opinion the term was applicable. Nothing could be further from our intention. The mention of this lady physician would have greatly strengthened our argument against the curious language of the correspondent of the *Times*, for if there is any employée of this government who has performed her duties with exemplary zeal and patience it is she. Lest any of her friends or acquaintances should see that former article and wonder at the omission, we wish to give the widest publicity to this disclaimer of any intention to exclude her from the list of those who are entirely free of the least suspicion of the charge made by Dr. Morrison.

Editorial Comment.

This issue of the REVIEW will probably be looked upon as a scolding number. It is not our purpose to find fault for the mere fun of the thing, but, as we have repeatedly stated, we intend to give the facts, whatever they may be. We may as will give up the notion that the whole trouble in Korea is caused by a few rowdy Japanese coolies. This was for a long time the general opinion and was so admitted by the Japanese; but recent events show conclusively that the Japanese military authorities are carrying out a vast scheme of reprisals which have for their object the seizure of Korean private property wholesale and with the merest pretense at compensation. One of our Seoul contemporaries has affirmed that the people are to be left in possession of their fields at least

for the time being. The writer with his own eyes saw field after field being torn up and the crops destroyed while the owners stood by and watched the destruction of their property. The Japanese in charge of the work said that he had been ordered to do it and must obey. To his credit be it said that he seemed rather ashamed of the job.

It has been intimated that this land may be intended as a settlement of Japanese soldiers after their discharge. Everyone knows how important it is that arrangements be made in advance for the disposal of the disintegrated elements of a large army and no one can find fault with the foresight of the Japanese, but in choosing this particular spot the greatest harm is being done the Koreans, while it will be no better for the Japanese than hundreds of other places would have been. No one can suppose these ex-soldiers can step into the work which the Koreans of the river towns are doing. The latter are the great purveyors to the capital. They handle the fuel and lumber from the interior and were it not for them Seoul would be in a sorry plight. Now to oust these people and substitute soldiers in their places will be doing a great injury both to those Koreans themselves and to all the natives of Seoul. But of course this never occurred to the Japanese authorities, or, if it did, so much the worse; it was ignored. Why seize land where there are thousands of Korean houses when these will never be utilized by the Japanese? They will be demolished and Japanese structures will be put up. Or again, why not let the Korean villages alone and utilize the broad tracts of land about and between them for the Japanese? By paying a fair price the land could be purchased and all would have gone on peacefully. But no, the Koreans must be treated to a vast confiscation which tramples their rights into the ground and makes them from now on inveterate haters of the Japanese. This utter insensibility to the hatred of the Korean proves as nothing else could how much Japan has still to learn of the science of handling an alien people. The difficulties that Russia has had with Poland, that Americans have had

with the North American Indian, that England, even, has had with Ireland, teach the Japanese no lesson. How about the decades to come when the hatred engendered to-day will break out periodically and cause endless trouble and expense? How about when the Koreans, in this rough school, shall have learned to bite back? Japan is laying up for herself a bitter reckoning in the future. Look for instance at the Koreans employed by the American Korean Electric Company as motormen and conductors. They have broken away from the old-time indolence of the Korean and have, by honest and hard labor, gained a good degree of self-respect. Even these few years have transformed them in bearing and in manner and if a Japanese strikes they strike back. A short time ago we witnessed an interesting little scene. Two angry Japanese who had been put off the car because of refusal to pay were running along the side of the moving car trying to get on, to attack the conductor or motorman. The conductor with a heavy walking stick belabored them over the head and shoulders with all his might until finally they had to drop off. We could not but admire the pluck shown by the Korean. He stood up for his rights and those of his employers. Now in time there will be thousands of Koreans who will be ready to stand up and make trouble if they are cuffed and kicked about. Is Japan ready to pay the bill for all the trouble and turmoil that this feud will cause? Would it not be infinitely better to treat the Koreans with some semblance of humanity and avoid the otherwise inevitable difficulties?

The conclusion of the war between Japan and Russia is an event of momentous consequence to Korea. It is not our province to discuss here the general aspects of this long-desired cessation of hostilities. From what we can learn the Japanese in Korea are but ill-satisfied with the terms of the convention but they will doubtless loyally acquiesce in the decision of the authorities who, alone, can know the actual conditions, financial and other-

wise, upon which a decision must be based. What we are interested in, mainly, is the effect the cessation of war will have upon Korea.

We have been told, and we believe truly, that the termination of the war will lift a great load from the authorities responsible for the administration of affairs in Korea and will give them an opportunity to apply themselves to this intricate and perplexing problem. In a spirit of perfect friendliness toward the best interests of Japan, both here and elsewhere, we have indicated some of the points at which the energies of the Japanese authorities could be applied with good effect; and we have no doubt whatever that we shall soon see a great improvement in conditions in this peninsula. The period of disturbance and uncertainty is now coming to an end and the time has come when Japan can begin to define her position here and let the Koreans know what they are to expect. It is the opinion of many that the seizures of land made by the military authorities can now be modified so that Korean owners will recover their lost homes and fields. This has yet to be proved, for if it is true that the Japanese Government intends to colonize portions of Korea with her disbanded troops the troubles of the Koreans in this direction have only begun. The failure of Japan to receive from Russia a substantial indemnity may therefore be a great misfortune for the Koreans, for out of that sum it would be hoped that Japan would reimburse the Koreans for their estates, with a fair degree of liberality. This cannot now be looked for. On the other hand it is only natural to suppose that Japan will seek in Saghalien, Korea and Manchuria some equivalent for an indemnity. This can be done in this peninsula by a rapid opening up of latent resources and if rightly done this may be of more permanent value to Japan than a cash indemnity would be, for these resources will form a permanent source of wealth which will eventually cast into the shade any amount of money that Japan might have exacted from Russia. No reasonable person can object to the exploitation of Korean resources by Japan, especially those re-

sources which the Koreans have left unworked and therefore hoarded.

But we consider that a successful opening up of these fields of wealth will be greatly facilitated if the Japanese and Korean people establish relations of mutual friendship and helpfulness. So far, the Japanese have evinced no desire to consider the wishes or the interests of Koreans, but we confidently believe that the termination of the war will effect a change in this respect. The leading Japanese have repeatedly affirmed that the termination of the war would be the signal for active efforts for bettering conditions here. We sincerely hope so and shall look eagerly for the first signs of it.

The termination of Dr. J. McLeavy Brown's engagement with the Korean Government as Chief Commissioner of Customs is another milestone along the road which leads to the temporary absorption of Korea by Japan. It is an event which brings poignant regrets to a large circle of friends. In these competent hands the Maritime Customs have proved an anchor to windward in many a time of stress and storm and however competent his successor may be there is inevitably more or less question when it comes to the retirement of a man whose conduct of this important branch of the government service has been beyond criticism. His successor may possibly do as well. He cannot do better. But it was only to be expected that the Japanese would demand the management of the Customs service. The question as to whether it would be for the welfare of Korea naturally did not figure in their estimates. Of course this means that the services of all the European employees of the Customs will be dispensed with. To those who have been connected with the Chinese service this may not mean much but there are a number who have spent many years in the Korean service and who will now be turned adrift at middle age with the necessity of forming new connections. The many warm friends of these men

will watch with some solicitude to see what provision the Japanese will make to indemnify them for the loss of what was practically a life position.

News Calendar.

His Majesty has issued a special decree concerning Koreans in Mexico :

Of late we have been told of the condition of our emigrants to Mexico, and our heart cannot bear to hear more. Traffic in slaves is now prohibited by all nations. Why are more than one thousand of our people to be sold to foreigners? The government did wrong in not stopping the emigration company on the first day they attempted to collect the people. Now many ignorant people have been taken to a strange place and there is no one to whom they can complain of their sorrowful condition. We can never bear to hear about it. The officials must arrange with the company to recall these emigrants immediately, and thus bring a little comfort to our aching heart.

Mrs. Yi, wife of Wan Pyeng-koon, of the Royal family, has been appointed president of the Ladies' Society by special decree.

Yi Ha-yeng, Foreign Minister, has forwarded his resignation four separate times.

The government consented to loan Y3,000,000 to the merchants, to come from the Finance Department, but the project was vetoed by Mr. Megata.

Min Kyeng-sik succeeds Yi Myeng-sang as chief of police in Seoul.

Min Yeng-chul, Minister of Education, has resigned and refused to attend to official duties, and Cho Pyeng-pil has been appointed acting Minister.

Branch offices for the collection of taxes in specified districts have been announced by the Finance Department as follows :

1 The one in Seoul will collect from Kyeng Kui, North Choong-chung and Kang Won provinces.

2 The Chemulpo office will collect from Poo Pyeng and Ansan districts.

3 The office in Song-do will collect from Whang-hai province.

4 The Kunsan office will collect from North Chulla and South Choong Chung.

5 Taxes from South Chulla will be received by the Mokpo office.

6 Taiku will receive the taxes from North Kyeng Sang.

7 The office in Fusan will receive the taxes from South Kyeng Sang province.

8 The office in Wonsan will receive taxes from South Hamgyeng.

9 Taxes in North Hamgyeng will be paid at Sougchin.

10 The Pyeng Yang office will collect from North and South Pyeng An provinces.

11 The Ciunampo office will collect from Yang Kang and Ham Chong districts.

Persons living within fifty *li* of the tax office will pay at the office, while others will pay to tax agents or collectors.

The Japanese Post Office has asked the Korean government to print in the Official Gazette a list of the post offices closed by the Japanese services, and if this is not done the Gazettes will not be delivered by mail.

The secretary of the Korean Legation in London cables for the immediate appointment of Korea's envoy, as important diplomatic affairs are constantly demanding attention.

The Seoul Commercial Society has notified the different representatives of foreign powers of the recent organization of the society.

The resignation of Syn Sang-hoon, Vice-Minister of the Supreme Court, has now been accepted.

The Foreign Office notifies the Home Department that the Japanese have secured no rights for the mining of copper in the Chang Wan district, and the work must not be permitted.

Because of lack of currency to carry on business all the Korean merchants at Chongno, Seoul, closed their places of business on the last day of August. They had sent all their old nickel currency to the Finance Department for redemption, but delay in the arrival of the new coins left them with nothing. His Majesty sent an official to investigate and offered a temporary loan of \$3,000,000 from the Finance Department.

His Majesty issued a special edict freely translated as follows: "In such dangerous times all officials should daily plan for the maintenance of a sound government; but instead you usually present your resignations two or three times, and for many days neglect official duties. How can you do this with propriety and a regard for the requirements of official service? At present the most urgent matter is to investigate the uproar caused by the merchants on account of the wretched condition of the currency. The government must plan to stop this as soon as possible, and the Police Department and City Court are ordered to explain these things to the people and ask them to attend to their duties as usual.

So many Ministers in the Cabinet were opposed to granting permission for Japanese vessels to navigate in the inland waters of Korea that the project was dropped for the time.

The prefect of Moon Chun reports to the Home Department that a great rice field in his district belongs to the Imperial Treasury and has been cultivated by many people for a long period of years. He says that recently the Japanese consul in Wonsan captured some of these farmers and compelled them to receive 5,070 yen as the price of

the field. Complaint is made and the farmers ask to return the money and receive back the land

The Vice Minister of Supreme Court, Mr. Son Sang-hoon, the Home Minister, Mr. Yi Chi-yong, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Yi Ha-yong, the Law Minister, Mr. Yi Kenn-taik, and the War Minister, Mr. Yi Yong-ik, presented their resignations to His Majesty, stating that they could not care for government affairs because the demands of the Japanese Minister were so oppressive. The resignations were not accepted.

A Korean whaling company has asked the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to lease to them a convenient site in each of Ham-kyeng, Kangwon and Kyengsang provinces where they may land and cut up whales, and for this privilege they are willing to pay three hundred dollars per year.

Sir O-soon, president of a transportation company, has written to the Agricultural Department, stating that from the Department he had received a concession granting him the right to dig black earth in Chung-san district, and he sent the permission to the magistrate by a bearer. Instead of protecting the bearer the magistrate imprisoned him, and now the Department is asked to command the magistrate to release the prisoner and permit him to do the work for which he was sent.

The French Legation was notified by the Foreign Office that the contract for a French language teacher would soon expire and at present would not be renewed.

Mr. Hong Hong-moo, Clerk of the Korean Legation at Washington, asks permission to return to Korea because of illness, and the request has been granted.

Fifteen military instructors are reported to have been employed from among the Japanese for the Korean regiments.

The War Department has asked the Foreign Office to request of the Japanese Legation the immediate return of the Korean war-ship, Yang Moo-ho.

The acting Minister of Finance, Pak Chea-soon, sent in his resignation and retired to his summer residence.

Sou Tai-hn, chief of police, has resigned his position and Kyeng-sang has been appointed to fill the place.

The Minister of the Household Department called together the chief merchants and set before them the following :

1 Three hundred thousand yen will be loaned to the Chnu Il bank, and the merchants may discuss with the bank as to how the sum is to be divided among them.

2 No interest will be charged on this money.

3 The term of repayment must be settled by the merchants and notice given to the Househo'd Department.

It is reported that the Home Minister and Police adviser have agreed to employ a Japanese physician for the city of Seoul.

Early in the month the governor of North Chulla province, Mr. Yi Seung-woo, reported to the Agricultural Department that no rain had fallen this season in six districts in his province, the farmers had been unable to sow their crops, and the people were in a pitiable condition.

The Home Department ordered the governors of North and South Pyeng An provinces to examine and report on the amount of land between Pyeng-yang and Euiju where the Japanese have placed post-indicating that the land was for military purposes.

Kim Ik-chea and Cho Pyeng-kum, two Koreans, are said to be about to issue one thousand copies of a work on agriculture for distribution among the people for the purpose of developing agricultural resources.

One of the members of the Eastern Asiatic Educational Society, a Japanese, has sent a memorial to His Majesty :

- 1 One school should be established within the Palace.
- 2 Public or private publishing houses should be established.
- 3 The present Eastern Asiatic Educational Society should be organized on similar lines to the one in Japan.
- 4 Students should be sent to eastern and western lands to be educated.
- 5 Different branches of agricultural and commercial education should be taught the people so that they could increase their wealth and cause their country to become a rich empire.

Requests have come from the people of Fusan that their kamni, Mr. Yi Moo-yang, be permitted to remain with them for ten years, his administration having thus commended itself.

Korean boys who have taken examinations in government schools since last January have been receiving some attention from the Home Department. There were six hundred and sixty of these boys in Seoul and two thousand seven hundred thirty five in the various provinces.

The Korean governor of Songdo and the Japanese commanding officer there have agreed upon the terms whereby Korean coolies are to work on the military railroad.

- 1 The local magistrates must order the head men of all villages to give assistance in securing the coolies.
- 2 A list of all the head men, all the houses and all the coolies must be sent to the army headquarters by the magistrates.
- 3 Men who live by labor will be taken first, but if the number is not sufficient others will be called in their order.
- 4 Men who depend entirely upon work for their living will be termed coolies of the first class ; but men who also have money may not refuse to do the work.
- 5 If the work is necessary bad weather will furnish no excuse, and the magistrates must punish the lazy.

6 Head men will be held responsible for the attendance of coolies.

7 When there is urgent work all first and second class coolies must attend to this labor without reference to their own work of cultivating their fields.

8 The army headquarters will indicate when coolies of the second class are required.

9 The interpreters will ask for coolies directly after they are informed by the commanding office.

10 Twelve hours shall constitute a day's work, and the wages shall be from 30 to 40 sen Japanese currency per day for each man.

11 There shall be one foreman for each twenty five coolies, the wages of the foreman to be from 40 to 50 sen per day.

12 Any man unable to work twelve hours will receive only a due proportion of the daily wage.

13 When a man cannot get his wages complaint must be made to army headquarters.

14 Men not used for railway work will be called upon to fix the streets, and there must be no complaints at having to work.

After an examination of the property of the river villages taken by the Japanese authorities, Pak Eui-pyeng, governor of Seoul, reports to the Home Department as follows :

1 The area of farm land would take a man and ox 3,118 days to plough. The price of the land, estimated at fifty dollars for land which it takes one day to plough, would be 155,900 dollars.

2 The number of houses is 1,176. The price at 40 dollars per kan for tile roof and 20 dollars per kan for thatch roof will be 182,980 dollars.

3 The number of graves is 1,117,308. Estimating the expense of removal at only fifty cents each it would cost 558,654 dollars for grave removal.

The total amount is 897,534 dollars. He asks that the Finance Department be instructed to pay this amount to the owners so they can remove to other places, but says this is far from being a sufficient amount.

The governor of Seoul has been ordered to proceed to Yung-san with an engineer to examine the royal and private tombs one by one and report on each without delay.

Yu Poong-keun has gone to Pyeng-yang and Euiju to limit the land taken by the Japanese for military use.

A terrible hailstorm is reported from Choon Chun district on the 20th instant. All growing crops and trees were greatly injured.

July salaries of Korean officers remained unpaid because the Imperial expense account was unpaid. His Majesty finally ordered the Finance Department to pay the salaries of policemen and soldiers first, but they said they dare not receive the money before the expenses of His Majesty were paid.

The Korean Minister to Japan notified the Foreign Office that he would not remain longer in Japan if his secretary were to be discharged.

The clerk of the Korean Legation in Paris has been promoted and made Secretary of Legation in London.

A representative of a Japanese life insurance company is now transacting business here.

Nineteen persons from the river villages were arrested by Japanese gendarmes to quiet disturbances.

The remains of Yi Han-eung, late acting Korean Minister to England, arrived in Chemulpo on the 10th instant.

The Chinese Minister to Korea has communicated with the Foreign Department to the effect that a letter received from the commanding general in Seung Kyung province, which is Chinese territory, states that numerous bands of Korean marauders have entered Hoi Yang and An Tung districts in that province and have robbed the people of large amounts of money and other property, some of the natives being killed and others injured. The Foreign Minister is asked to order the magistrates of boundary districts to keep such bands of men from entering China.

The Japanese army headquarters sent a despatch to the Home Department saying they have been informed that the vice Minister of the Home Department had rendered assistance in the disturbances caused by the people of the river villages. He and his minor officials are asked to furnish good and sufficient written proof that the statement is without foundation.

Notice is given the Foreign Office by the Chinese Minister that the Chinese government will maintain consuls in all the open ports of Korea. The Foreign Office is asked to order all the kamui to negotiate diplomatic affairs with the consul hereafter. A list of the consuls and clerks is as follows :

In the chief office, first secretary, Chung Myeng-hoon; second secretary, O. E. Chang; interpreter, Yer Cha-sung; attachés, Wauk Siek-kang, Syn Pyeng-sun and Yang Muu-hea.

For Seoul: Consul General, O Ki-cho; attaché, Syn Myeng-sun; assistant, Hong Po-soon.

For Chemulpo, with Kuusan and Mokpo: Consul, Tang Eun-sang; clerk, Chun Seung-ye.

For Fusau and Masampo: Consul, Mr. To Wook; clerk, Chun Seung-kyea.

For Samwha and Pyeng-yang: Vice Consul, Chin Kwang-to; clerk, Chun Kwang-hea.

For Wonsan: Vice Consul, So Ka-in; clerk, Chun E-wan.

It is reported that His Majesty has contributed \$32,000 toward the establishment of a Red Cross hospital.

The Japanese Minister is reported to have informed the Foreign Office that the agreement with the teacher in the Imperial German

language school should be renewed on the same conditions as contained in the agreement with the teacher in the English language school.

The newly appointed Minister of War, Syn Sang-hoon, presented his resignation, but it was not accepted.

The Imperial Treasury sent to the Finance Department the sum of \$930,000 in old silver to be exchanged for the new currency.

After affixing his seal to the navigation agreement with Japan the Foreign Minister, Yi Ha-yang, sent in his resignation and has since retired to his newly-erected summer residence.

The Incheon prefect reported to the Home Department that a letter from Song Sang village reported the arrival of six Japanese subjects who erected posts around the fields from the village to the coast, and on the posts was the notice that the land would be used by the company for experimenting in agriculture. The plot is more than ten *li* in length and contains a large number of rice fields. To inquiries they replied that the land had been purchased from the Korean government, so complaints at that time were unavailing. Now the people ask that the stakes be immediately pulled up and that they be permitted to cultivate their own fields in peace.

Mr. H. R. Bostwick, manager of the American-Korean Electric Company, has gone to America on a short business trip.

Fruit of better quality and in more abundance than last year has been a prominent feature of the Korean markets.

The Japanese mining expert will send out notice as follows:

- 1 When Japanese or other foreigners wish concessions for Korean mines permission must be obtained from the Japanese Minister.
- 2 No concessions will be granted except for bonafide mining purposes.
- 3 The rates for concessions and taxes on mines will be increased.
- 4 Koreans may get concessions from their government, providing they are not associated with foreigners in the project.

On the nineteenth instant the Finance Department paid the Imperial expense bills for July.

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yun Chi-ho, has been sent by the Korean government to investigate the condition of Koreans in Hawaii and Mexico. His traveling expenses of one thousand yen were ordered to be paid by the Finance Department.

The previous announcement of the sending of \$900,000 of old silver by the Imperial treasury to be re-coined is now said to be somewhat misleading. This amount of money was stored in a go-down on the premises of Yi Yong-ik, where thirty Korean soldiers were sent to protect it. Mr. Megata also sent policemen and they pushed into the house and also proceeded to guard the treasure. After that the Japanese Minister requested the Imperial treasury to have it re-coined in the new currency, but the offer was refused as the money was stored for the purpose of purchasing new furniture at the time of celebrating the

Crown Prince's remarriage in October. It was pointed out that \$100,000 would be saved by having it received instead of hoarding it for the purpose of purchasing furniture.

The Japanese Minister announced that his government would issue formal notice of the navigation treaty about the 23rd instant, and asked that similar announcement be made by the Korean government.

Woo Yong-taik assaulted the Minister of Foreign Department, Yi Ha-yeng, for having signed the Japanese navigation agreement. The man was quite seriously injured by the Minister's servants and he was finally arrested by Japanese gendarmes.

Two supposed leaders of the disturbance over the river village lands have had an investigation by Japanese gendarmes and been sentenced according to military law.

Various rumors are afloat concerning the temporary disappearance of Yi Yong-ik. One is that he has gone to Shanghai, another that he is at one of the Legations in Seoul, and still another that he is quietly resting at his own home.

Mr. Kato's agreement as adviser to the Agricultural Department has been cancelled, but it is said he will be immediately re-engaged as adviser to the Household Department.

The Il Chin-hoi celebrated the anniversary of their organization on the 18th instant by speech-making and a street procession.

A notice posted at Chong No indicated a desire to defend the Korean army from its enemies, declared the Cabinet to be full of traitors, and declared that an oath had been taken toward the country of these evil men.

Daily receipts on the Seoul-Fusan railway have been averaging 9 yen per mile.

The magistrate of Tai An district reports that a Japanese with an interpreter has recently demanded that twenty men be furnished him for five days each to complete his house on one of the islands in the Korean Sea.

The Mexican government answered the telegram of the Foreign Office to the effect that no Koreans had been sold into slavery in that country.

Minister Von Saldern of the German Legation went to China for a short vacation, the Vice Consul meanwhile having charge of affairs.

The resignation of the Vice Governor of Seoul, Mr. Pak Seung-cho, has been accepted.

The contract for the teacher in the Imperial German language school has recently been renewed.

On the twenty-fifth instant the birthday of His Majesty was celebrated by the firing of cannon at noon and a display of fireworks at night. There was no banquet because of the term of mourning for the late Crown Princes.

About \$8,000 have been subscribed by Koreans in Hawaii for the purpose of erecting a Korean consulate building. They are exceedingly anxious to have a consul of their nationality.

The Il Chin-hoi have made various charges against Yi Yong ik,

1 Because of his method of coining nickels the coinage is debased and now by reason of the change in coinage the people are losing one half of their capital. Yet he is doing nothing to relieve the financial difficulty.

2 He visits the Palace at frequent intervals without waiting for an invitation from His Majesty.

3 He established a telephone line between the Palace and his residence so that he can communicate freely. This is too careless treatment of the emperor.

Because of all this they ask that he immediately kill himself.

Pak Chea-soon heard of the distress in the river villages and at once came to Seoul from his summer home and called the Cabinet together to devise some means of relief for those evicted by the Japanese.

The assistant governor of Seoul spent many days with the Japanese Consul in the endeavor to negotiate about the interests of the river villages. Not having accomplished anything he laid the matter before the governor. The brief reply was, "Can do nothing about it." The assistant governor then forwarded his resignation to the Home Department, and declared to the governor that it was nonsensical to see the suffering of the people without endeavoring to render assistance.

The magistrate of Chin Island informs the Home Department that the Japanese Consul in Mokpo, a police man, interpreter and another Japanese came to his island on the 18th. On inquiring they informed him an official letter from their Foreign Department had ordered them to inspect this island, so they would inspect the methods of the magistrate, interview the people and test the quality of the soil.

Not receiving the attention of the Foreign Department to their repeated letters, emigrants to Hawaii sent a special messenger, Yi Tong-ho, to make a plea in their behalf.

On the 10th inst all the Ministers handed in their resignations on the same sheet of paper, but none of them were accepted.

The Japanese army headquarters sent a notice to the river villages saying that within the limits of the map accompanying the notice all the lands would be taken for military use, and payment was being made to the Home Department. The owners of lands, houses, graves and crops must receive the amount given and remove their possessions to other places, and if this should not be done the army headquarters would make the necessary arrangements under military necessity.

The Chang-won prefect reports that Japanese are digging in a copper mine in his district. When he undertook to stop them he was informed that a Japanese living in Seoul had contracted with the Korean government, and they proceeded with their work.

The request of the Home Department to the Finance Department asking for the payment of the amount due the river villages for land taken by the Japanese has been referred to Mr. Megata, who refused to grant permission, saying the matter would be referred to the Japanese Minister, and the land had been taken for military purposes.

The excessive recent rains have greatly interfered with traffic on both the Seoul-Fusan railway and the military line from Seoul to Wiju. The latter road has not been opened to the general public, but numerous passes are granted almost daily to Koreans and occasionally to foreigners.

The Foreign Department sent a despatch to Mexico calling attention to the report that Koreans were being sold as slaves in that country. In the absence of a treaty with that country, and until a consular representative could be sent to care for the interests of the Koreans the Mexican government was asked to kindly care for the more than one thousand Koreans already in that country.

Native papers say that in order to secure the privilege of navigating all the waters of Korea for Japanese boats the same privileges were granted to Korean boats in Japan.

The Household Department is disposed to protest against the action of an assistant in the Finance Department who is said to have gone to the mint at Yongsan and counted \$120,000 in fifty-cent pieces and \$60,000 in copper and then put a private lock thereon.

Members of the Il Chin-hoi are said to have been camping daily at the residence of Yi Yong-ik, Minister of War, making repeated requests that he should kill himself.

Pak Chea-soon, acting Prime Minister, sends a memorial to His Majesty accusing the Minister of Foreign Affairs of affixing his seal to the Japanese navigation agreement without it first having been sanctioned by the Cabinet. He calls for an investigation and asserts his own readiness to receive punishment because he cannot perform the duties of his office.

Yi Yong-sun, governor of North Choong Chung, has been dismissed and Syn Tai-hea, governor of Pyeng-yang takes his place. Cho Chong-pil is transferred from Kang-won to Pyeng yang, and Yi Yong-ik, Minister of War, is appointed governor of Kang-won.

The Household Department is said to have received a cablegram stating that Prince Eui-chin left America on the 9th instant for Korea.

The ex-Vice Minister of the Supreme Court, Mr. Syn Sang-hoon, has been appointed Minister of War.

The Foreign Department has asked the Korean Legation in Washington to negotiate with the Mexican government concerning Korean interests in Mexico.

The director of the Telephone Bureau in the Household Department, Yi Chonk-ik, has been dismissed and Kil Yung-so has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

A former official, Im Paik-soo, in a memorial warus His Majesty against all the present Ministers as traitors to the country.

The resignation of Yi Keun-taik as Minister of War has been accepted, and Kwon Choong-hyen has been appointed to the place.

The Chinese Minister req ests passports for two of his nationals that they may visit Kyeng-kui, Whang-hai and Pyeng-an provinces on an inspecting tour.

The Foreign Department is notified by the Japaneese Minister that the Japanese Consul in Tientsin is sending a Korean, Im Chang-Chiu, back to Korea, and the traveling expenses amounting to forty dollars are asked to be refunded to the Consul at once.

On the 16th instant occurred the anniversary of the founding of the present Yi dynasty, and the event was celebrated by the firing of cannons and lantern displays.

Two Korean scholars, Woŋ Yang-taik and Chung Tai-wha, sent a letter to Yi Chi-yong the Home Minister to kil' himself to av id death at the hands of others. They charge that when he was Foreign Minister he signed the Protocol with Japan, thus permitting the Japaneese to take charge of the government service and bring profit to their own government, and also permitted them to demand many things for the army. When he became Home Minister he agreed to receive many police officers from Japan, and consented to give the land in the river villages and much in the Pyeng-Yang and Euiju districts for the use of the Japanese army.

The secretary of the Korean Legation at Washington, Mr. Syn Tai-moo, arrived in Chemulpo on leave of absence on the 17th instant, and immediately came on to Seoul.

Salaries of policemen in the thirteen provinces not having been paid for the past five months they made complaint daily to the Home Department.

On the twenty-first an audience was granted the Japanese Minister to consider the appointment of a new Cabinet.

The Household Department recalled the governor of South Chong Chung province, Mr. Yi To-chai, and it was rumored he was to be made chief of the Home Department.

Mr. Han Kiu-sul succeeded Cho Pyeng-ho as Prime Minister, but he forwarded his resignation twice soon after appointment.

The Education Department asked for an increase of four hundred dollars in their budget for the year because of the recent advancement of many scholars.

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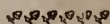
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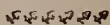
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We are the Largest Exporters of Fine Food Stuffs to the Orient.

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First quality groceries, Full count
At reasonable prices, Fresh stock,
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Stone or Gravel Ballasted,
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FINE PHOTOGRAPHY

K. IWATA

Chingokai, Seoul

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Calendar for 1905 issued October 1, 1904		

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